

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A speculum to provide visual access to a body cavity, said speculum comprising a handle having a frontal portion and a rear portion slidably secured to said frontal portion, a blade angle positioner pivotally connected by a pivot connection in a top end portion of said handle rear portion whereby to angulate a top blade removably secured to a top blade connector anchor at a forward projecting end of said blade angle positioner, said handle frontal portion having a bottom blade connector anchor in a top forward end portion thereof, said top and bottom blades each having a connecting end provided with clamp connectors for removable engagement with a respective one of said top and bottom blade connector anchors, said blade angle positioner arresting said handle rear portion at a desired selected position by ~~transferring~~transferring a biasing force applied onto said blades when inserted into a body cavity and said blade connected to said blade angle positioner is placed in normal tension with cavity walls said handle rear portion being retained in sliding fit in a guide slot formed in each of a pair of straight vertical side edges of said handle frontal portion, said guide slots each having a serrated section facing forwardly, said handle rear portion having a pair of transversely aligned serration-engaging teeth facing rearwardly and adapted to engage with a respective one of each serrated sections at a desired position therealong when said biasing force is applied onto said blade and wherein said blade angle positioner is provided with an integrally formed angle-selecting flexible ramp integrally molded therewith, said ramp having a series of teeth displaceable against a teeth-engaging edge of said handle rear portion when said angle positioner is displaced on said pivot connection.

2. (original) A speculum as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom blade connector anchors comprise an arcuate

guide ridge having opposed locating cavities to receive in snap-fit clamping engagement therein said clamp connectors.

3. (original) A speculum as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said clamp connectors are constituted by a pair of opposed inwardly facing shoulders, each disposed at an opposed end of an arcuate connector channel formed in an inner wall of said connecting end of said blades, said arcuate guide ridge being received in close fit in said channel.

4. (original) A speculum as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said top and bottom blades are constructed of a suitable plastics material permitting flexibility for said snap-fit clamping engagement.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A speculum as claimed in Claim 51, wherein said blade angle positioner is provided with a sighting aperture to permit visibility between said blades from a rear of said speculum.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A speculum as claimed in Claim 71, wherein there are four teeth in said series of teeth, there being seven serrations in said serrated forwardly projecting section for engagement by said serration-engaging teeth, said four teeth and seven serrations permitting said blades to be displaced to one of twenty-eight different positions to permit a user person to achieve better placement of said blades to suit the comfort of a patient or provide better access to parts of said body cavity.

9. (currently amended) A speculum as claimed in Claim 71, wherein said angle-selecting ramp is provided with a finger-engaging projection free end to displace said flexible ramp for disengaging said series of teeth with respect to said teeth-

engaging edge of said handle rear portion to reposition said positioner.

10. (currently amended) A speculum as claimed in Claim 51, wherein said handle rear portion is provided with means to disengage said serration-engaging tooth from said serrated section against said biasing force for sliding displacement of said handle rear portion.

11. (original) A speculum as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said serrated section has forwardly projecting serrations.

12. (original) A speculum as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said means to disengage is a thumb cavity formed integrally on a rear surface of said handle rear portion to provide for a user person to push said handle rear portion toward said frontal portion to disengage said serration-engaging teeth from said serrated section to permit said sliding displacement.

13. (original) A speculum as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said speculum is constructed of molded plastics parts, said handle frontal and rear portions and said blade angle positioner constituting a reusable handle assembly.

14. (currently amended) A speculum as claimed in Claim 51, wherein said handle rear portion is also provided with a pair of transversely aligned force transfer projecting fingers which are positioned in a top portion of said guide slots to abut against a smooth wall section of said slots formed above said serrated section to provide a pivot for said handle rear portion to draw said serration-engaging teeth in engagement with their respective serrated sections.

15. (original) A speculum as claimed in Claim 1, wherein there is further provided a light source channel formed integrally with said handle frontal portion, said channel having an open top end configured to receive a removable light pipe therein for directing a light beam between said blades.